



LAWNOTES

FALL 2024

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY J. DAVID ROSENBERG COLLEGE OF LAW



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Reel Moments



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Celebrating our students, alumni, faculty, and staff



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ABOUT THIS MAGAZINE

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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

The sky's the limit for the University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law! We have outstanding students, devoted alumni, a top-notch faculty, dedicated staff, and a fabulous law building. With these resources in place, we are poised for ever greater measures of success and achievement.

This edition of Law Notes celebrates the achievements of our students, alumni, and faculty.

We begin with the graduating Class of 2024. At our Commencement Ceremony in May, 129 students were invited to cross the stage. Of these 129 people, by our last count, an astounding 123, or 95%, have secured "J.D.-required" or "J.D.-advantage" employment. We are proud of this metric. As one alumnus recently stated, "We train practice-ready lawyers."

Commencement included remarks from Dean Mary J. Davis on behalf of the college, Lauren N. Eickholz on the behalf of the graduating class, the undersigned on behalf of the faculty, and Fletcher McMurry Schrock '77, on behalf of the alumni.

Law Notes next features current 3L Erik Buddingh. Erik's story is fascinating. Born in Canada, he worked in a variety of industrial contexts, largely in the Canadian West, before emigrating to the United States. At present, he is both a 3L and an executive at Gray Construction.

Will Baird '24 is an outstanding member of May's graduating class. A native of Pikeville, Will comes from a family of lawyers. He put his sharp mind and positive energy to work at the college by taking a dynamic, leading role in student organizations. He joins Valvoline as a commercial counsel this fall.

Caroline King '24 is one of the inaugural Rosenberg Scholars. She is something of a Renaissance woman. She has an undergraduate degree in digital art and she intends to practice intellectual property law with Dinsmore & Shohl in Cincinnati. She's also an avid athlete and a studio artist. In fact, some of our official stationery features her work!

Yuha Jung '24 is another Renaissance woman. A professor in UK College of Fine Arts, she has multiple graduate degrees. Along with her new J.D., she has a doctorate in art education and two master's degrees, one in public administration and one in museum studies. She intends to use her extensive educational experiences to help students in the world of art develop more sophisticated financial and legal protocols for their clients.

We next celebrate last year's National Moot Court Team, which won the Regional

Competition in Richmond, Virginia, last November. This team consisted of Harper Anderson (who also won the award for best oral advocate), Eddie Beusch, and Lauren Eickholz. They then progressed to the National Tournament in New York, where they qualified for the break-out rounds but were bested by Alabama.

In a similar vein, undergraduates from 16 different colleges and universities gathered at the college for the Bluegrass National Series Moot Tournament in January. Berea College was co-host for this event. We are especially proud to bring undergraduates into our building because we want them to see with their own eyes what a marvelous facility we have!

In the Fall 2023, Professor Zack Bray and former Professor Melynda Price (who now directs an institute at the University of Michigan) launched the Monuments Workshop at UK. The goal of this workshop is to integrate expertise on law, art, design, and history to help communities make responsible decisions about their built and natural monuments.

Zack is illustrative of our wonderful faculty. Not long ago, he was the recipient of a Great Teacher Award, a well-earned accolade. Although we have always put an accent on teaching at the college, our faculty are also accomplished scholars. They have written books, articles, and other items on many of the important issues of our day. They have testified in Congress, and they have been asked to speak all over the country on their areas of expertise.

The Peter Perlman Lessons in the Law Series continued last fall at Consolidated Baptist Church in Lexington, Kentucky. The focus was "Navigating the Criminal Justice System." The purpose of this series is to demystify the legal system for non-lawyers.

The John G. Heyburn II Initiative for Excellence in the Federal Judiciary is another important endeavor in which the college is proud to participate. On February 23, 2024, the Heyburn Initiative and the college hosted "A Conversation with The Honorable Mary S. Scriven," a United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida. Judge Benjamin J. Beaton of the United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky served as the moderator.

On a sad note, numerous alumni passed away over the past year, including William F. Fortune '64, who devoted his professional life to teaching, serving clients, and promoting the health and integrity of the bar.

Returning to happy subjects, we then celebrate the achievements of various alumni.



This begins with a focus on Dawn and Robert Croft, who have developed fascinating corporate practices. Dawn is Senior Counsel and Head of Regulated Products for DoorDash, and Robert is an Assistant General Counsel at Humana, where he leads the defensive litigation team. They make their home in Seattle, Washington.

Gwendolyn Horton '76 has devoted her legal career to the service of others. A native of Louisville, she helped implement Kentucky's unified judicial system. She later worked for the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, the Louisville Metro Public Defender, and the Legal Aid Society.

David Holton '88 has similarly given of himself to others. One of only a handful of blind alumni of the college, he served his community in the Jefferson County Attorney's Office and as a District and Juvenile Court Judge. He later helped create Kentucky's first Veterans Treatment Court Program. He currently practices in the Louisville area.

On April 11, 2024, the college hosted a "Pioneers for Progress" celebration in conjunction with the Lyman T. Johnson Alumni Constituency Group. At the event, the college and the Group recognized the sacrifices and achievements of a number of African American alumni. This event included two panel discussions, one by alumni on their careers and experiences in law school, and the other on Lyman Johnson's pathbreaking case against UK.

Finally, on May 8, 2024, the college inducted two alumni into its Hall of Fame, J. David Rosenberg '74, and the Honorable Rebecca Westerfield '76. David is the naming benefactor of the college, a senior partner at Keating, Muething & Klekamp in Cincinnati, Ohio, and a member of the college's Visiting Committee. Judge Westerfield served as a Circuit Judge in Jefferson County before moving to San Francisco, where she now resides, and where she is a founding member of JAMS, a global resource for dispute resolution.

Paul E. Salamanca
Acting Dean and Wendell H. Ford Professor of Law

Celebrating the *Class of 2024*



On Friday, May 3, the University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law held its commencement ceremony for the Class of 2024 at the Singletary Center for the Arts. “This class is a collection of stellar students who have formed an extraordinary community that excels in the classroom and extends beyond it,” said UK Rosenberg Law Dean Mary J. Davis.

As the top-ranked student in the class, Lauren N. Eickholz of Paducah, Kentucky, gave remarks on behalf of the students. The graduating class selected Professor Paul E. Salamanca, Wendell H. Ford Professor of Law,

to provide remarks on behalf of the faculty, and Kentucky Bar Association President W. Fletcher McMurry Schrock, a 1977 alumnus of the law school, spoke on behalf of the bar.

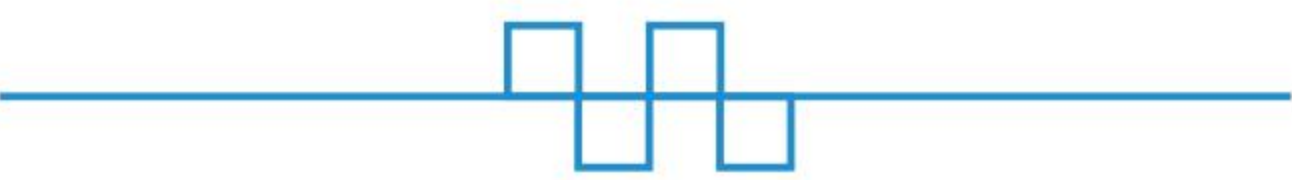
Eickholz shared the advice she would give aspiring law students based on her experiences in law school. She said she would tell an aspiring law student to never let impostor syndrome stop them, to lean on those around them, and to allow law school to change them.

“Law school can change your life if you let it,” Eickholz said.

Salamanca reminded the graduates that their path won’t always be easy, but they should attack challenges with gusto.

“What you’ve done is hard,” he said. “You may not realize how much you’ve learned, but you have. You’re astoundingly knowledgeable about the law in comparison to people who have not done what you’ve done over the last three years, and you’ll soon see how much you know as you prepare for the bar and as you get out there and practice.”

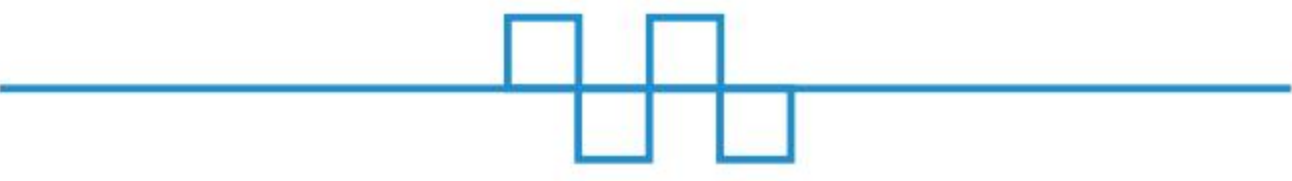




“

This class is a collection of stellar students who have formed an extraordinary community that excels in the classroom and extends beyond it.”

Mary J. Davis



Jennifer Bird-Pollan, associate dean of academic affairs and professor of law, called the graduates’ names as Dean Davis presented members of the class with certificates signifying attainment of the degree of Juris Doctor. The graduating class elected Professors Zachary A. Bray, James and Mary Lassiter Professor of Law, and Alan J. Kluegel to carry out a more recent tradition of placing doctoral hoods on each graduate.

In addition, several graduates received special awards and recognition. Eighteen graduates are in the running for nomination and election to the Order of the Coif. The top 10 percent of the

class will be inducted once all grades are final. Twenty-one graduates were recognized with the Pro Bono Award for completing at least 50 hours of independent, law-related public service prior to graduation.

Finally, the faculty selected Desmond C. Varner Jr., of Norfolk, Virginia, as the 2024 recipient of the Faculty Cup. The Faculty Cup recognizes a graduating student whose endeavors, both in and outside of the classroom, made the law school a more interesting place for faculty and students alike. Varner was the 2023 recipient of the Lyman T. Johnson Torchbearer Award and served as president of the Trial Advocacy Board.

“The Class of 2024’s Faculty Cup recipient is described by their nominators as ‘an ever-present force of pure positivity’ and as a ‘constant presence, ready to provide joy, encouragement, and advice to other students, faculty members, and staff,’” Davis said.

Davis concluded the ceremony by congratulating the graduates once again and welcoming them to the profession. “I know each one of you will continue to add to the nobility of our profession,” she said.

Order of the Coif eligible:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Jacob Baird | Erik Farleigh |
| Eddie Beusch | Daniela Foltz |
| William Vincent Bosch | Isabel Harrison |
| Caleb Benjamin Childers | Hayden K. Hickey |
| Autumn Renee Clark | Dylan James Keefe |
| Ryan Crum | Elizabeth Lieser |
| Billy J. Devericks II | Shelton Elizabeth Owen |
| Andrew Clay Edwards | Emily M. Puckett |
| Lauren Nicole Eickholz | Nathaniel Lewis Richey |

Pro Bono Award:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Harper Blair Anderson | Elizabeth Leathers |
| Onyeka D. Anosike | Olivia G. Manuel |
| Hailey Combs | Janvi Viral Patel |
| Madelyn Reed Day | Emily M. Puckett |
| Annie Deitz | Morgan R. Sanchez |
| Cherish McKenna Derrickson | Claire Emiko Sandberg |
| Hayden K. Hickey | Kamryn Stewart |
| Hope Hickey | Desmond C. Varner Jr. |
| Talia C. Housman | Miles C. White |
| Jessica Dawn Hutchings | Alyssa N. Wiggins |
| Dylan James Keefe | |





Celebrating the Class of 2024

Graduation Reception ► May 2
Commencement Ceremony ► May 3





Future Alum, Class of 2025

Erik Buddingh

WHERE IS YOUR HOMETOWN?

I am from Summerland, British Columbia, Canada. It is a beautiful little town that is reminiscent of Colorado in terms of geography and climate. It is not what most people here in Kentucky would expect from Canada.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR EDUCATION BEFORE LAW SCHOOL.

My professional background is broadly industrial and entrepreneurial, and I consider work part of my education, too. I began with onsite work across construction, oil and gas, the railroad (as a conductor), industrial agriculture, and more, then moved into project management, later started my own contracting company (that I ran for several years before Covid changed everything), and now I work in-house for Gray Construction's self-perform company, NexGen Contracting. As far as post-secondary school goes, I studied philosophy, theology, languages, and more. I returned to university after six years of industrial work and obtained a B.A. in Humanities with a concentration in Philosophy and a minor in Ancient Languages. I studied this because it was/is fascinating to me. I wanted to consider questions of existence itself and had the luxury of pursuing that course of study since I was single (and therefore had no family responsibilities) and already had a lot of available work such that there was no pressing necessity to obtain a "marketable skill" at university. As an aside, I would say that learning to think clearly has been incredibly helpful professionally even if the financial value it brought was realized indirectly. My undergrad was incredibly formative for me — I had the opportunity to read complete primary sources written by the greatest thinkers throughout world history and learn to interact with them under the tutelage of world-class professors. Later, I returned to law school in Canada and completed the first year before deciding to move our family to the United States and begin law school again at UK.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO GO TO LAW SCHOOL?

I decided to attend law school for a series of reasons. As I mentioned, my background is largely industrial. I quite enjoy industrial work, but it is hard to work out-of-town for weeks at a time. I wanted to unify my intellectual interests and my professional background by tying a bow, so to speak, on my professional journey so far. I wanted a credential that would fortify my position and enable me to do thoughtful work in the context of industry, which is what I do now. Besides that, I wanted to pursue a line of work that could provide well for my family, requiring mostly daytime work and mostly during conventional business hours. Of course, the nature of my occupation requires that I often work deep into the evening or on weekends, but I am thankful that my work in those cases can usually be done from home. Besides direct professional and personal goals, I wanted to be able to obtain a credential that would enable me to advocate for justice and goodness as I understand them and as opportunities to do so might arise.

WHAT ARE YOUR CAREER GOALS?

Really, I am already living the dream. To me, there are two main paths that are appealing — either I would work as part of a large and skilled team to undertake major projects that no solo practitioner could do, or I would be the captain of my own little ship and solve unique problems within my own niche. Since I already have the opportunity to consider and manage risk from a holistic perspective in the context of a large construction business, I intend to continue to steward that opportunity faithfully as part of a very strong team.

AS A LAW STUDENT, WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE YOU FACED AND HOW DID YOU OVERCOME THOSE CHALLENGES?

The challenges that I have faced and continue to face have been a wonderful opportunity to learn and grow even as they have, at times, been more difficult than I thought I could bear. In the first place, I had to complete 1L twice — once in Canada and then again in the United States. My first time through 1L began on Zoom in 2020 during the height of Covid. I had gotten married to my wonderful wife a couple months prior to the start of the first semester and learned immediately before classes began that my wife was expecting our first child. We lived in a small apartment and were stuck inside for a whole year. On top of that, my wife is from Indiana, and we were planning to live in Canada at that time. So, I was learning how to be a law student and learning the law itself while working on immigration paperwork and assembling documents to obtain permanent resident status in Canada for my pregnant wife. On top of that, I owned and operated a small business to support my family. My wife was full-term the day after final exams ended in the spring semester and our first son was born May 11, 2021. It was amazing and overwhelming. After 1L in Canada, my wife and I decided to move to the United States, which meant packing up our things, moving to Indiana, all the immigration paperwork to obtain a green card in the U.S., and adjusting to life with a new baby at my in-laws' house. Next, I began applying to law schools again with hopes that I would be accepted to UK Rosenberg College of Law. Thankfully, I was accepted, and we moved to Lexington in 2022 to begin 1L again. We arrived in Kentucky with no furniture into a small apartment and my wife was expecting our second child. Given the rigors of 1L, it is not the sort of experience most people would want to endure twice, but I am grateful for what that opportunity represents for my family. During 1L at UK, I was working remotely as a broker making industrial equipment deals in Canada. Later, I met a connection at Gray Construction and began discussions to join their team, which I did in 2023. In the second semester of 1L, our second son was born Feb. 22, 2023, immediately before 1L appellate briefs were due, which was eventful. I have worked for Gray/NexGen throughout 2L, building a business unit (monetizing company-wide spend, national deals for procurement), and a risk department. Further, I chose to take 5/6 "bar classes" and fulfill the writing requirement during 2L so that I would have more available bandwidth to devote to work during 3L as NexGen grows. In sum, I have encountered many kinds of challenges along my law school journey and have relied on the Lord, my amazing wife, along with my classmates and professors to work through these challenges as they have arisen. I am eager to finish school and consolidate challenges into family and work — I hope the pace will become more sustainable in about a year.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT THE UK ROSENBERG COLLEGE OF LAW?

I like a lot of things about UK Rosenberg College of Law — it is my dream school. I could have gone elsewhere, but this was always my preferred choice, and I am so happy to be here. Above all, I love that there is a real diversity of thought and experience among students who are decent, respectful, and collegial even when there are, at times, deep disagreements on policy matters or the outcomes of various cases. It is an extraordinary pleasure to be around such capable and thoughtful people who are interacting with important and timely material together.

IS THERE A SPECIFIC PROFESSOR OR CLASS THAT HAS HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT DURING YOUR TIME IN LAW SCHOOL SO FAR?

Professor Salamanca is the greatest example of a law professor I could imagine. While he is clearly exceptionally competent and his professional accomplishments speak for themselves, his defining attributes include characteristics like kindness, latitude, graciousness, patience, and humility. I cannot say enough good things about him, nor can I express how much I have benefitted from taking his classes both because of the content and the way he teaches while managing class dynamics. I aspire to emulate him as he navigates the tumultuous waters of classes like Constitutional Law — he takes a balanced approach, invites open dialogue, and welcomes students to consider their positions considering how the law has taken shape during the history of the United States.

WHAT FIELD OF LAW ARE YOU MOST INTERESTED IN PURSUING AND WHY?

If money was no object, I think I would devote myself to Constitutional Law. I come from Canada and have had occasion to ponder the importance of founding/governing documents and to see how the disparity in such documents

and their interpretation is manifest practically. As a result of this, I have a keen appreciation for the U.S. Constitution and dearly hope it will stand strong into perpetuity. However, because I have a family to feed, I am very happy to delve deeply into agreements as manifest in contracts. I really enjoy transactional work, especially in my current context because I have the opportunity to understand the whole of business and how agreements define the various components of each part. I enjoy everything from procurement to risk management, to negotiations of many kinds and all of that considering the business itself.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR EXPERIENCE GOING TO LAW SCHOOL WHILE BALANCING FAMILY LIFE?

My experience of going to law school while trying to balance family life has been incredible. I am extremely grateful that my wife has seen me working to provide for her and our children in real time while trying my best in school. I am grateful that I have seen her incredible dedication to our children (she is the best mother on the planet, I am convinced) and her steadfast love for me that has been invaluable in sustaining me through the difficulties along the way. I am honored that our children get to see their father set an example of accepting any challenge that comes our way in life and trusting God for grace to face it head-on to care and provide for them as best I can. So, while I might have welcomed an easier road if I had the option, I am humbled that the Lord would give me a hard road that amounts to an opportunity to trust Him and experience His faithfulness in allowing our family to thrive and grow even through a season of acute difficulty. Also, as my wife is currently expecting our third child, I am eager to see how 3L goes with our newest family member set to join us sometime this November.

SOFIA E. SWEAZY | SUMMER INTERN





Inaugural OUTLaw Banquet Stands Out as Class of 2024 Graduate's Greatest Achievement in Law School



Will Baird of Pikeville, Kentucky, knew when he was young that he wanted to become a lawyer. He had spent time at court hearings and in the office of his family's law firm after school, and he became mesmerized.

"My great-grandfather founded a firm in the 1950s, and his legacy lives on in my grandfather, great uncles, my mom, and many other members of our family," he said.

Baird, a University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law Class of 2024 graduate, has accepted a job offer to work at Valvoline, which has headquarters in Lexington, Kentucky, as commercial counsel. He will negotiate procurement and sales contracts with vendors and buyers, and do some work related to employment and data privacy. As a second-year law student, Baird worked for Valvoline as a law clerk.

Although he doesn't have plans to join his family's practice, Baird said "each of them inspires me to uphold our dignified profession."

After earning his Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting from the University of Louisville, Baird said UK Rosenberg Law — in his home state — was one of the universities he looked at for law school, and he remembers touring the law building with a friend.

"From the immaculate building, which was only around a year or two old, to my guide's recommendations of the professors and thriving network of student organizations, I knew Rosenberg was the place I had to be for the next three years," Baird said.

Baird said the decision paid off. He was an active and instrumental participant in two student organizations at the law school: the Kentucky Law Journal, serving as managing editor, and OUTLaw, serving as treasurer.

As treasurer of OUTLaw during his 1L year, Baird helped organize the organization's inaugural banquet. "This board also included Lilly Coiner (Class of 2024), and she had the great idea to host a fall banquet for the membership. We needed some money to fund the event, and that's how it kicked over to me as treasurer."

Baird was eager to create a significant networking opportunity for LGBTQ+ law students. He arranged for a speaker and then began reaching out to individual attorneys as well as law firms to sponsor the event.

"With some work and a lot of luck, it turned into a massive educational, advocacy, and networking event with over 100 law student attendees and 100 community attendees, representing 10-plus firms and the state

judiciary," Baird said. "Planning an event of such substance and prominence — particularly one dedicated to recognizing and learning about LGBTQ+ issues and providing a space for members of the LGBTQ+ community and its allies — is my greatest achievement in law school."

While in law school, Baird was also a member of the law school's American Constitution Society, Appalachian Law Caucus, and Student Bar Association student organizations as well as a member of the UK Student Government Association.

Baird said he would recommend UK Rosenberg Law for reasons that include an administration that is invested in getting to know students and amplifying their success. Baird specifically mentioned Amy Eason, director of career development, and Danny Murphy, senior assistant dean of community engagement and operations.

He said UK Rosenberg Law also has a thriving student community "which is so important to complement the rigors and competitiveness of class."

“


Planning an event of such substance and prominence — particularly one dedicated to recognizing and learning about LGBTQ+ issues and providing a space for members of the LGBTQ+ community and its allies — is my greatest achievement in law school.”

Will Baird



Graduate With Varied Interests Finds Community Among Rosenberg Scholars





Jordan Caroline King, a Tuscaloosa, Alabama, native, who earned a bachelor's degree in digital arts from Stetson University in Florida, moved to Lexington in 2020 while finishing her undergraduate degree program.

“My fiancé had moved to Lexington for work that January, and I moved in with him when my classes in Florida became remote,” King said.

Following graduation in May 2020, King decided to take a gap year. She knew she wanted to go to law school, but she didn't want to do remote law school classes. She applied to University of Kentucky, partly because of proximity, in addition to several other law schools. A phone call from former Dean Mary J. Davis made all the difference.

“It was shaping up to be a very difficult decision, but thankfully UK made it easier for me in the end,” King said. “Dean Davis called me to offer me the Rosenberg Scholarship, and from there it was an easy decision.”

In spring 2021, four incoming students were selected as the first J. David Rosenberg College of Law Scholars: King; Abby Napier of Fort Thomas, Kentucky; Isabel Harrison of Elsmere, Kentucky; and Emily Puckett of Lexington, Kentucky. The awards are full-tuition scholarships that are renewable for three years.

“I am so happy I chose UK,” King said. “I got everything I wanted from my law school experience, while continuing to be around the people I love, doing the things that I love.”

In November 2019, the university announced a \$20 million gift commitment from J. David Rosenberg — a 1973 alumnus of the law school and partner in the Cincinnati firm of Keating, Muething & Klekamp — and his wife, Dianne. The J. David Rosenberg College of Law Endowment provides merit scholarships based on demonstrated intellectual excellence and promise and supports faculty positions and other college needs.

King said she didn't know anyone when she moved to Lexington with her fiancé, but she quickly found a supportive micro-community among the other Rosenberg scholars. She also had an opportunity to get to know Rosenberg.

“He's honestly an incredible person — one of the kindest people I've ever known,” she said. “He's hardworking, passionate and is probably more likely to want to talk to you about opera than the law.”

King is well-versed in a variety of hobbies. She has taught tennis part-time for about four years. “I was often seen wandering campus with my racquet sticking out of my bag. I still play competitively as often as I can as well.” In addition to tennis, King enjoys long-distance running.

She has been drawing and painting for most of her life. “I find that it's a great way to unwind and turn off my brain. There's something very meditative about observing the world and working to capture it as you see it.”

King plans to join Dinsmore & Shohl's Intellectual Property team in Cincinnati, Ohio, working on patent preparation and prosecution.

“I was a summer associate there last year, and it was an incredible experience, really a dream come true. I can't think of a better place to start my career.”

Regarding the start of her law career, King said UK Rosenberg Law proved to be a special, supportive community. She would recommend that prospective law students tour the schools they are interested in attending.

“The community fostered between our faculty, staff, students and alumni can't really be put into words. But if you come to visit, you will feel it, and it's something really special.”

“

The community fostered between our faculty, staff, students and alumni can't really be put into words. But if you come to visit, you will feel it, and it's something really special.”

Jordan Caroline King

UK College of Fine Arts Professor Becomes UK Rosenberg Law Alum

University of Kentucky Professor Yuha Jung admits to being a “serial degree seeker.” She holds a doctorate in art education from The Pennsylvania State University, a master’s in public administration from University of Georgia, a master’s in museum studies from Syracuse University, a bachelor’s in painting from Yeungnam University, and — as of May 2024 — a J.D. from the University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law.

While working toward her law degree, Jung continued teaching as a professor of arts administration in the UK College of Fine Arts and serving as the college’s director of graduate studies.

Jung said she sometimes had to make tough choices to prioritize her students and her faculty role.

Like many students entering law school, Jung said, she had always been a good student and had never gotten a C grade. But she quickly realized she had to be realistic about how much time she had to study for her own exams while juggling other responsibilities. Jung said she got one C in law school, and she’s OK with that.

“My strategy was to do it just enough,” she said.

Jung teaches financial management for arts organizations to undergraduate students and organization theory to Ph.D. students. Moving forward, Jung will teach a class about the law for arts administrators. The class will deal with contracts and First Amendment issues, among other subjects.

Jung primarily focuses her research on museum management and historic preservation. She always thought a law degree would help her with that research, and she began making connections between the law and her work while in law school. She has also added legal components when applying for research grants. Jung

said her work has become more interdisciplinary. “I understand how things connect, and people can see that,” she said.

The professor said her legal education has also aided her teaching. In addition, Jung said more lawyers are needed who specialize in the arts — something she would be interested in pursuing in addition to teaching.

Jung said she had a good experience interacting and learning with other law students and was impressed by the faculty. As a fellow UK faculty member, Jung said the law school faculty didn’t treat her any differently from the other students, and the professors were always helpful, offering their time and advice.

“Law school, by design, is tough. It’s so many hours of work and reading,” Jung said. She noted that she wouldn’t do it again, but fortunately she doesn’t have to. “Overall, it was great.”



UK Rosenberg Law National Moot Court Team *Celebrates Win*

The University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law celebrated a big win for the Moot Court Board. The Kentucky National Moot Court Team A participated in the regional competition in Richmond, Virginia. Seventeen teams from Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina competed, with UK bringing home first place. Three third-year law students represented UK, including Harper Anderson from Morehead, Kentucky; Edwin Beusch from Olympia, Washington; and Lauren Eickholz from Paducah, Kentucky. They competed against University of Louisville in the final round.

"Members are rigorously tested on their writing, speaking, critical thinking and legal analysis skills, all of which are invaluable to a future career in the legal field," said Harper Anderson, Moot Court Board president.

The Moot Court Board is a student organization focused on cultivating the appellate advocacy skills of law students. It provides courtroom practice where participants, called "mooters" or "mooties," argue legal issues in front of a panel of judges. Through simulated appellate court experiences, members are required to write an appellate brief and present arguments on cases involving complex legal issues.

"The opportunity to participate as a member of Moot Court Board is undoubtedly my favorite part of my law school experience," said Anderson.

The team went on to the 74th annual New York City Bar National Moot Court Competition in New York City, Jan. 29-31. They were eliminated in the breakout rounds against University of Alabama.





Women’s Law Caucus Recognizes Several in Law School Community

The Women’s Law Caucus, a student organization at the University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law, held its annual spring event on Thursday, March 28, honoring Judge Lindsay Hughes Thurston, an alumna of the law school; Professor Shavonnie Carthens; Professor Tiffany Atkins; and second-year law student Kassidy Stumbo.

Stumbo won the Rebecca Westerfield Award for Excellence in Leadership for her advocacy for women in the legal profession. The Westerfield Award is awarded annually to a rising third-year law student who has demonstrated excellence in leadership on campus, in the civic sphere, in the arts, or in scholarly research and writing. Rebecca Westerfield is a 1975 graduate of the law school and a former Jefferson County Circuit Court judge.

The Women’s Law Caucus held the dinner at Clerestory, an event space near downtown Lexington.





Kentucky Law Journal Holds Annual Symposium

The annual Kentucky Law Journal Symposium, held Friday, Oct. 13, 2023 in the G. Chad Perry III Grand Courtroom of the Law Building, examined the role of state Supreme Courts as laboratories of democracy and honored the service and legacy of the recently retired Chief Justice of the Kentucky Supreme Court, John D. Minton, Jr.

The symposium brought together nationally renowned legal scholars, judges, and practitioners to explore the topic.

Former Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear delivered the keynote address. Chief Justice Laurance VanMeter and Deputy Chief Justice (ret.) Lisabeth Hughes served as panelists, among others, during the symposium, and Chief Justice Minton delivered closing remarks.



UK Rosenberg College of Law and Berea College Host First National Series Moot Tournament Round for Undergraduates

Undergraduate students from 16 universities convened at the University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law on Friday, Jan. 19 and Saturday, Jan. 20 for the Bluegrass National Series Moot Tournament, co-hosted with Berea College.

In 2022, UK Rosenberg Law and Berea College co-hosted the Bluegrass Regional Undergraduate Moot Court Tournament, a qualifier for the national tournament of the American Moot Court Association (AMCA). As a result of the tremendous success of that regional-level tournament featuring participating undergraduate teams from across the nation, the AMCA requested that

UK Rosenberg Law and Berea College advance to hosting as one of the national series of tournaments leading to the crowning of the annual national champions.

The undergraduate schools represented in this year's national series round in Lexington were University of Chicago, Loyola University Chicago, University of Maryland, California State University Fullerton, California State University Long Beach, Patrick Henry College, Michigan State University, Liberty, Morehouse, University of Louisville, College of Wooster, Georgetown University, Youngstown State University, University of North Texas, Franklin College, and Saginaw Valley State University.

Attorneys and judges, including many UK Rosenberg Law alumni, volunteered to serve as "justices" for each round of the tournament. Current law students on the college's Moot Court Board and Trial Advocacy Board also volunteered to serve as bailiffs and justices, as needed.

American Moot Court Association officials and Berea College student volunteers helped UK Rosenberg Law facilitate the tournament. Dan Huck, a Professor of Law, Ethics & Society at Berea College, served as the tournament director.



Thank you to the volunteer lawyers and judge who served as justices in the final round: Bruce Singleton, Yesel Rodriguez, Faith Jackson, Judge Denotra Spruill-Gunther, William Davis, Jamila Carter, and Dana Howard.



Volunteers:

Matthew Burton
Noah Busroe
Jamila Carter
Myles Chaney
Shawn Chapman
Angel Chapman
Laurent Cadet
Carole Christian



The competitions required utilizing every classroom throughout the law building, with the final round being held in the G. Chad Perry III Grand Courtroom. Anna Guzman and Emeline Wright of University of Chicago took home the first-place trophy. The runners up were University of Louisville students Caleb Aridano and Megan Crowley. The top eight teams advanced from Lexington to the final round tournament of the AMCA's national series.

"I want to go to law school. Emeline wants to go to law school. So, it's been really cool to experience what that will look like in the future," Guzman said.

Wright said she had a great time during the tournament and both she and her partner were excited about competing as much as possible this year as seniors.

"I absolutely loved this competition. It was so gracious of the University of Kentucky to host," Aridano said. "This competition requires so much hard work, but it's so rewarding at the same time."

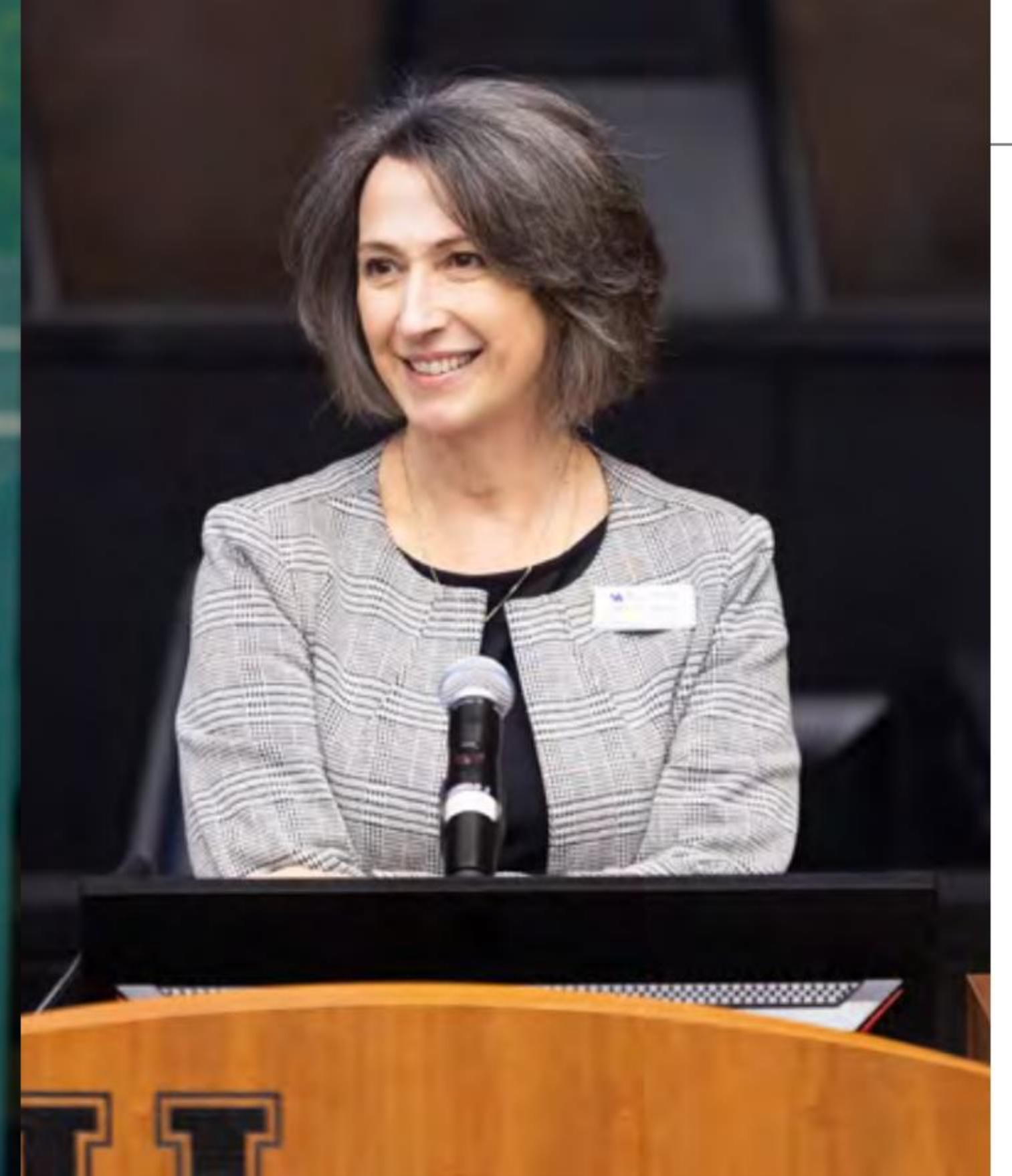
Crowley agreed that the tournament was a rewarding experience.

"It's so rewarding to see the culmination of so much hard work and effort by everyone involved," she said following the second-place finish. "It's also just really inspiring to see people my age who have worked really hard to reach a goal. I'm just very thankful for the opportunity to be here."

Autumn Clark
Susan Clary
Carlin Conway
Harry Dadds
William Davis
Daryl Day
Madelyn Day
C. David Emerson
Tim Feld
Julia Giordano
Al Grash
Michael Healy
Haley Harris
Jackson Hurst-Sanders
Dana Howard
Nicky Hodges
Jessica Hutchings
Faith Jackson
Nolan McWilliams
Danny Murphy
Brynne McKinsey
Conner McCourt
Daniel Martell
Kaci Loveland
Lindsey McNamee
McCoy Patrick
Jacob Patterson
Sanders Platt
Jesse Robbins
Elizabeth Roseman
Yesel Rodriguez
Marcus Roland
Morgan Sanchez
Abby Schueler
Emily Shepherd
Bruce Singleton
Eden Stevens
Kamryn Stewart
Kassidy Stumbo
Judge Denotra Spruill-Gunther
Garrett Tice
A.J. Vice

UK Rosenberg College of Law Dean Mary J. Davis Rejoins Faculty

Professor Paul E. Salamanca Named Acting Dean



University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law Dean Mary J. Davis stepped down from her position as dean and returned to the faculty full time, effective June 30, 2024. Davis led the college since July 2019, and she has served on the faculty since 1991. She became the first woman to serve as dean of the college.

“It’s time for the college and for me to move to the next phase, but I am forever grateful for the opportunity to serve as dean these past years,” Davis said. “I look forward to continuing to work alongside my exceptional faculty colleagues.”

During her tenure, the college experienced historic and unprecedented events, including the opening of a new building, major gift announcement, renaming of the college, and the unique challenges of transitioning to online instruction during the pandemic.

The Law Building reopened in August 2019 following a two-year, \$56 million renovation and expansion. Davis chaired the building committee before she became dean of the college. The renovation expanded the college’s footprint by 26 percent, providing more space for teaching, learning, research, practical skills training and co-curricular programming.

Soon after the building reopened, the college announced a \$20 million gift from alumnus J. David Rosenberg and his wife, Dianne, to further strengthen the academic excellence of the law school. The UK Board

of Trustees approved renaming the college in December 2019.

Even though law school is meant to be a collaborative and community-based environment, Davis successfully led the college through necessary adjustments and transitions, including virtual teaching and learning, during the COVID19 pandemic.

In addition, Davis supported the expansion of community programming and outreach, including efforts to increase the law student pipeline and enhance the public understanding of law. She supported increased diversity and inclusion initiatives, including the creation of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Student Advisory Board in 2020 and the development of a program that reengages graduates of color.

During Davis’ tenure, 10 new faculty members have been hired since 2020. In 2023, the college was ranked as the sixth Best Value Law School by National Jurist Magazine. Finally, the law school at UK has seen steady enrollment growth, and bar-passage and employment success among its graduating students.

In an announcement at the end of June, UK Provost Robert S. DiPaola named Professor Paul E. Salamanca as acting dean, effective July 1, 2024.

Salamanca joined the University of Kentucky in 1995 after graduating from Boston College Law School in 1989 and gaining invaluable practical experience in the field —

first clerking for Justice David H. Souter on the U.S. Supreme Court, then practicing law with Debevoise & Plimpton in New York and serving as an assistant professor of law at Loyola University School of Law in New Orleans.

From 2019 to 2021, Salamanca also served as a Senior Counsel and then a Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, where he supervised the Natural Resources and Land Acquisition Sections of ENRD.

At UK, Salamanca teaches courses focusing on constitutional law, civil procedure and federal courts, among others. He is dedicated to his students’ success and uses his wide array of experiences to continuously challenge students and develop their practical skills. He is a recipient of the Duncan Teaching Award and is the Wendell H. Ford Professor of Law.

“His commitment to guiding students in their learning is a testament to the determination he will bring to advancing the J. David Rosenberg College of Law and its reputation as an outstanding law school with an even more outstanding community,” the provost’s announcement said. “I know that Professor Salamanca — along with exceptional faculty, staff and students — will help lead the college into another era of growth and excellence.”



On Friday, Sept. 6, 2024, the UK Rosenberg Law community gathered for a cookout to celebrate

Mary J. Davis and her leadership as dean. Visiting Committee Chair Buzz English ('83) presented Davis with a fellowship in her name to thank her for her leadership. The Mary J. Davis Law Fellowship Endowment will support future Rosenberg Law Students.

Davis pictured here with UK Rosenberg Law Philanthropy Director Aimee Baston.

FACULTY & STAFF NOTES



Tiffany D. Atkins spoke at the University of Louisville Law Review Symposium on the topic, “A Right Delayed is a Right Denied” Current Threats to

International Human Rights. Atkins presented her paper: *Media + Vigilante Violence: A Formula for American Atrocity*.



Zachary Bray received the 2024 Duncan Teaching Award, an annual award presented to a UK Rosenberg Law faculty member who has distinguished

themselves through excellence in the classroom. This award is provided by the Robert M. and Joanne K. Duncan Faculty Improvement Fund, founded in 1982, which was established to promote outstanding teaching performance. The recipient of this award, selected by the dean of the college, with an emphasis on student evaluations, receives a one-time award of \$5,000.



Shavonnice Carthens was selected to participate in the 2024 Saint Louis University Health Law Scholars Program. The prestigious program provides a collegial forum for faculty new to health law

and bioethics scholarship. Participants present works in progress and receive valuable advice and critique from experienced scholars and teachers in the field of health law and bioethics.



Joshua A. Douglas published a new book, “The Court v. The Voters,” that dives deep into the details of significant cases involving voting

rights — some familiar, some surprisingly unknown. He uses his book to investigate the historic crossroads that have changed U.S. elections and the voting public.



D'lorah Hughes, Legal Clinic Director, received the Trinia Clemons Friend of Pro Bono Award during the annual Suits that Rock fundraiser and concert

benefitting the Legal Aid of the Bluegrass.



Michael Murray spoke at the Center for Intellectual Property x Innovation Policy Roundtable on Copyright and Generative AI. He presented

Generative Artifice: Artificial Exploitation and Deception by AI under Right of Publicity Law.



Paul E. Salamanca was named acting dean of the college, effective July 1, 2024. Salamanca joined the faculty of the college in 1995 after graduating from Boston College Law School in 1989 and gaining invaluable practical experience in the field.



Jonathan Shaub received the Carl Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy's 2024 Award for Excellence in Oversight Research for his paper “Common

Law Executive Privilege(s).” The award-winning paper was selected by a committee composed of law and political science oversight scholars and veteran practitioners.



Alexandra Jean Sipes helped coach the Eastern Kentucky University undergrad mock trial team. The team got a spot in the American Mock Trial

Association's Opening Round Championships with a 5-3 record at the AMTA regional tournament hosted by the University of Dayton. Sipes is an ECU alumna.

 **Rosenberg**
College of Law

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*Zachary Bray, James and Mary Lassiter
Professor of Law, UK Rosenberg Law*



*Mary Beth Forester, Legal Director,
The Monuments Workshop*



*Rachel Noble-Varney, Senior Program Manager,
The Monuments Workshop*



*Melynda Price, Director of the Institute for Research
on Women and Gender, University of Michigan*

The Monuments Workshop at University of Kentucky

CLOSING FACULTY THOUGHTS BY ZACHARY BRAY

In the fall of 2023, long-time UK Rosenberg Law faculty members Melynda Price and Zachary Bray created the Monuments Workshop at the University of Kentucky. Although Melynda has left for the University of Michigan, where she is the Director of the Institute for Research on Women and Gender, her work as a co-director of the Monuments Workshop at UK with Zack continues on. The Workshop is designed to provide legal advice along with the work of a variety of non-legal experts from fields such as art, design, and history, in order to help interested communities recognize new or alter existing built or natural monuments. The Workshop is also designed to support the work of students—both from UK Rosenberg Law and from other departments across the university—who can learn about monument law and addressing monument challenges while still in school.

The Workshop is funded by a generous grant from the Mellon Foundation, as part of the larger Monuments Project, a multi-year commitment that supports efforts to transform the nation's commemorative landscape to ensure that American stories are more completely and accurately represented. Mellon's larger Monuments Project supports efforts by other academic institutions, government, community, and grass-roots organizations, and arts and cultural groups to contextualize existing commemorative sites, to tell stories that have been forgotten or that have not yet been told, and to support research and media efforts to inform the public's understanding of how monumental landscapes communicate, shape, and teach our history.

With the support of the Mellon Foundation, the Monuments Workshop at UK has begun to help communities across Kentucky begin efforts to recognize new or reframe existing monuments including neglected cemeteries, historic saddle shops that helped drive important innovations in the horse industry, and natural springs and archaeological sites embedded in Kentucky landscapes for thousands of years. As part of these efforts, and thanks to Mellon's generous support, the Workshop has now hired a full-time Legal Director, Mary Beth Forester, and a full-time Senior Program Manager, Rachel Noble-Varney, both of whom will be working in the Rosenberg College of Law building. The Workshop's Senior Program Manager, Rachel Noble-Varney, joined the Workshop team in February 2024, having most recently previously worked at the Kentucky Geological Survey at UK, where she was the Geologic Publication Manager. Before joining the Geological Survey, Rachel worked as a grant proposal Development Manager at UK and as the Associate Director for Grant Services at Berea College, as well as a number of other jobs at academic institutions, non-profits, and in the private sector. Rachel is working on her PhD at UK in the Geography Department, having previously earned an MFA from Ohio State and undergraduate degrees in anthropology and sociology from Earlham.

The Workshop's Legal Director, Mary Beth Forester, joined the Workshop in June 2024, having most recently previously worked in the Lexington office of the Social Security Administration, where she was a decision writer and attorney adjudicator. Prior to her work for the SSA, as many members of the Kentucky bar will remember, Mary Beth was the Director of Continuing Legal Education at the Kentucky Bar Association for many years. Before working at the KBA, Mary Beth practiced at Johnson, Judy, True & Guarnieri and McBrayer, McGinnis, Leslie and Kirkland. Joining the Workshop is a return home for Mary Beth: she is a graduate of UK Rosenberg as well as an honors and dean's list graduate of Centre College.



Peter Perlman Lessons in the Law Series Continues to Educate Community



The University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law held its second program in the Peter Perlman Lessons in the Law Series, a free program that invites the public to learn about the law from legal experts in the community, last fall at Consolidated Baptist Church in Lexington, Kentucky.

During the program, “Navigating the Criminal Justice System,” a panel of four distinguished experts discussed processes and procedures in the criminal justice system, including details about how criminal cases move through the courts.

The panelists were the Honorable Kimberly Baird, Commonwealth’s Attorney, Fayette County; the Honorable Melissa Moore Murphy, Fayette District Judge; the Honorable Vincent Riggs, Circuit Court Clerk, Fayette County; the Honorable J. Guthrie True, Criminal Defense Attorney; the Honorable Ron L. Walker Jr., Assistant U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Kentucky, and Chief of the Criminal Division. The Honorable William E. Johnson, an attorney, served as moderator.

The Lessons in the Law Series was the vision of alumnus Peter Perlman. William E. Johnson, John G. McNeill, Justice Mary C. Noble (Ret.), and Christine L. Stanley, all alumni of the Rosenberg College of Law, came together as an Advisory Board to join in this effort. The college decided to name the series after Peter Perlman in honor of his hard work to implement this type of public service program for the community.





Heyburn Initiative Presents
“A Conversation with The Honorable Mary S. Scriven”



The John G. Heyburn II Initiative for Excellence in the Federal Judiciary and the University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law presented “A Conversation with The Honorable Mary S. Scriven,” District Judge, United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, on Friday, Feb. 23, 2024, in the G. Chad Perry III Grand Courtroom of the law building.

Judge Benjamin J. Beaton, United States District Court, Western District of Kentucky, moderated the discussion.

The John G. Heyburn II Initiative for Excellence in the Federal Judiciary is a national, non-partisan program devoted to improving the federal judiciary system, with a particular focus on Kentuckians’ contributions to American legal discourse.

In conjunction with the public lecture in the Grand Courtroom, Scriven met with a smaller group of law students on the morning of Feb. 23 to discuss topics such as judicial clerkships, career paths, private practice experience, good lawyering, and other words of wisdom and advice for law students. Eric Olson served as facilitator for the session with Scriven. Olson is an Eastern Kentucky native and until recently served as the Colorado Solicitor General.

Scriven was appointed to serve as a United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida on September 30, 2008, after serving as a Magistrate Judge for more than 10 years. When she was appointed to serve as a Magistrate Judge in 1997, she became the first African American woman to serve on the federal court in the state of Florida and the second to serve on the federal court in the Eleventh Circuit, which includes Florida, Georgia and Alabama.

Prior to her judicial career, Scriven was a shareholder with the law firm of Carlton, Fields, Ward, Emmanuel, Smith & Cutler, P.A., where she practiced for 10 years in the Corporate Litigation and Trade Regulation Department.

From December 1996 through December 1997, Scriven served as an Associate Professor of Law at Stetson University College of Law, teaching in the area of Commercial Law, Remedies, Legal Malpractice, Banking Law and Contracts. She frequently lectures in trial advocacy, pretrial procedure and in commercial and criminal law courses and seminars. She is a former faculty member with NITA and has also served as a guest faculty member in the Masters Program for Trial Advocacy, Nottingham Law Institute, Nottingham, England.

Scriven is an honors graduate of Duke University and Florida State University College of Law, and in 2006, she received an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Stetson University College of Law.

She has received numerous awards for her service to the Bench, Bar and community at large, including the prestigious Gertrude E. Rush award by which the National Bar Association recognizes individuals for their pioneering spirits, community and professional leadership, concern for human and civil rights, and for being a model of excellence in the legal profession.

She currently serves as chair of the Eleventh Circuit Judicial Council’s Pattern Jury Instruction Committee and was recently elected by the Florida federal judges of the Eleventh Circuit to serve as the Florida at-large board member to the Federal Judges Association.

CLASS NOTES

2020s



Conner R. Wehrle (2023) recently joined Stites & Harbison PLLC in Lexington, Kentucky, as part of the Trusts & Estates Planning Group.



Harlee P. Havens (2022) recently joined Stites & Harbison PLLC in Lexington, Kentucky, as part of the Torts & Insurance Practice Service Group.



John Paul Stilz (2022) recently joined Stites & Harbison PLLC in the Lexington, Kentucky, as part of the Construction Service Group.



Kami Griffith (2021), an attorney at Morgan Pottinger McGarvey, has relocated to the firm's Lexington office. As a senior associate, Griffith supports several of the firm's practice areas, including banking and finance law, loan document negotiation, commercial real estate, and foreclosure.

2010s



Carlin Conway (2019) joined the UK J. David Rosenberg College of Law as assistant dean of student services.



Jennifer Henry Jackson (2018), an attorney at Stites & Harbison PLLC, has been elected to serve on the board of directors for the Court Appointed Special Advocates of the River Region. She will serve a three-year term.



Trevor M. Nichols (2018) was recently hired as an associate at Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP in Cincinnati, Ohio. He focuses on representing employers in workplace law matters, including preventative advice and counseling.



Olivia C. Keller (2017) joined Stites & Harbison PLLC in the Covington, Kentucky, office on the Business Litigation Service Group. Keller's practice primarily focuses on medical liability, business litigation and employment.



Jessie A. Smith (2017) recently joined Stites & Harbison PLLC in Lexington, Kentucky, on the Construction Service Group.



Drake W. Staples (2016) has been promoted to partner at Stites & Harbison, PLLC, effective Jan. 1, 2024. Staples is an experienced construction lawyer.



Blair Hlinka (2015) recently joined Caplin & Drysdale as an associate in the firm's Tax Disputes & Tax Litigation practice group.



Thomas E. Travis (2015) has been named partner at Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs LLP. Travis concentrates his practice in a variety of litigation disciplines, including appellate practice, constitutional law and business litigation.



Jonathan Fannin (2014) has been named partner at Minner Vines Injury Lawyers.

2000s



Taylor J. Stuckey (2007), has been named chair of the Trusts & Estates Service Group at Stites and Harbison, PLLC. Stuckey is a partner of the firm based in the Lexington and Louisville, Kentucky, offices.



Carl Walter II (2006) recently joined Minner Vines Injury Lawyers as a trial lawyer.



Mandy Wilson Decker (2002), an attorney at Stites & Harbison PLLC, was elected chair of the Intellectual Property Law section of the Kentucky Bar Association in July 2024 to serve a one-year term.

1990s



Greg Cornett (1995) was recently named president of Rhode Island Energy. In his new role, Cornett leads the largest utility in the state of Rhode Island, focusing primarily on strategy, legislative and regulatory affairs, and stakeholder engagement and communications.

1970s



Taft A. McKinstry (1972) of Fowler Bell PLLC was presented the prestigious Henry T. Duncan Award by the Fayette County Bar Association at the annual Law Day Luncheon on May 1, 2024. The Duncan Award recognizes the integrity, leadership, and professional conduct of the recipient.

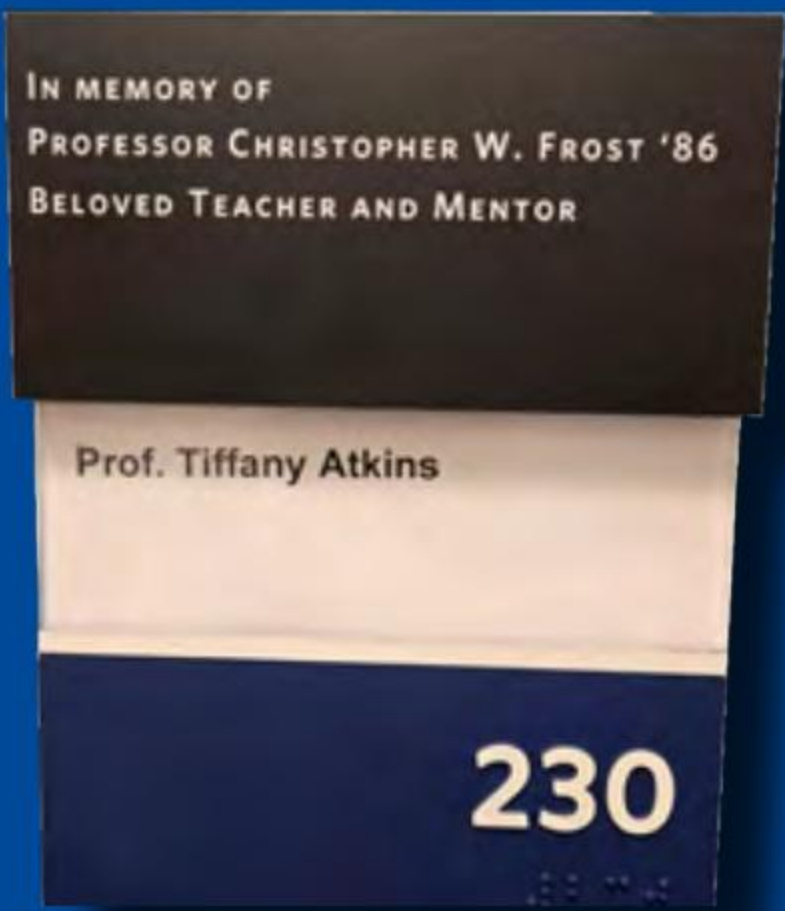
Class Notes Submission: UK Rosenberg Law encourages alumni to submit recent professional successes along with a headshot to law@uky.edu. Please include first name, middle initial, last name, and married name (if applicable). Please specify the UK Rosenberg Law graduates when sending a list of multiples from a firm.



In Memoriam

- The Honorable Julian M. Carroll, '56
Mr. Richard A. Brown, Jr., '66
Mr. Franklin P. Smith, '66
Mr. Morell E. Mullins, '67
Mr. Thomas A. Noe III, '68
Mr. John H. Thompson, '68
Mr. Robert M. Coots, '69
Mr. Clinton H. Newman II, '69
Mr. John S. Parton, '69
Mr. Thomas M. Cooper, '74
Ms. BC Weiner, '74
Mr. Randy G. Clark, '77
Mr. Timothy S. O'Neill, '79
Ms. Gayle E. Slaughter, '80
Mr. E. Douglas Stephan, '80
Mr. Brian C. House, '81
Mr. Danny A. Simons, '81
Mr. Donald H. Combs, '82
Mr. Ken R. Haggard, '84
Mr. David E. Waite, '84
Ms. Elizabeth A. Shaw, '85
Mr. J. Drew Anderson, '87
Mr. Keith D. Duerr, '87
Mr. John G. Grohmann, '87
Mr. Rand Leslie Marshall, '90
Judge Brandy Oliver Brown, '93
Ms. LaDonna Lynn Koebel, '93
Mr. Walter R. Farmer, '94
Ms. Rosemary H. Vance, '03
Mr. Jonah K. Brown, '10

**As of June 30, 2024*



This faculty office was recently dedicated to the memory of Professor Chris Frost.

Interested in a naming opportunity?
Contact Aimee Baston at abaston@uky.edu.

Professor Bill Fortune's Indelible Impact on UK and Lexington

William H. "Bill" Fortune, who died Jan. 29, 2024, at age 83, had an indelible impact on the legal profession in Kentucky and the City of Lexington through his lengthy career as a professor at the University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law and a lifetime of service to his community.

"Bill Fortune was such a gracious and welcoming person to new faculty. I recall that he took the time to organize hikes and bicycle trips to introduce me to fellow faculty and members of the Bar when I first moved to Lexington," said Paul E. Salamanca, who now serves as acting dean of the college. "He also took me to Frankfort and introduced me to the attorney general at the time, the public advocate at the time, and people at the Kentucky Bar Association. Later, he lent me tools so I could participate in a build for Habitat for Humanity. I can also remember working on a build with him."

For Salamanca, Fortune's helpfulness did not stop there but continued through the years.

"He went with me to help me pick out an engagement ring for my wife," Salamanca said. "In fact, only a week before his passing, I was asking him about the Kentucky rules of evidence."

Mary J. Davis, who served as dean through June 2024, said she appreciated Fortune's optimistic spirit as he regularly checked in with her and others throughout the law building.

"Bill Fortune was relentlessly positive and optimistic," Davis said. "He saw the best in us. As dean, I appreciated Bill's regular, supportive check-ins. He always had a way of making your day."



A Lexington native, Fortune majored in history at UK before earning a juris doctor from the College of Law in 1964. After a five-year stint in private practice, Fortune embarked in 1969 on a 43-year career as a law professor at UK, specializing in criminal procedure and ethics.

A Professor Emeritus, Fortune continued to teach as an adjunct following his retirement in 2012, the same year he was inducted into the UK Rosenberg College of Law Alumni Hall of Fame.

In the classroom, Fortune excelled at instilling his students with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed within the legal profession. He was honored with UK's Great Teacher Award in 2001. Alumni described him as "brilliant and beloved."

Outside the classroom, Fortune took on many roles at UK and beyond the university. Fortune twice was associate dean of the law school and was UK Academic Ombudsman and University Senate Chair. He also was the first president of the Central Kentucky Legal Services Corporation and on three occasions took leaves from the College of Law to provide legal services to the indigent, serving as a federal public defender in California and Kentucky and as an assistant public advocate in Eastern Kentucky.

Fortune wrote several books, including "On the Bench" and "Call Me Mac," the latter a biography of U.S. District Judge Mac Swinford, and "The Man from Whitman Creek," a biography of his law faculty colleague and lifelong friend, Robert G. Lawson.

Alumni Gather to Celebrate Reunions



Class of 1973 Reunion



University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law alumni gathered to celebrate reunions last fall. A dinner on Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023, at Spindletop Hall in Lexington, Kentucky, celebrated the Class of 1973 on their 50th Anniversary. The Class of 1993 celebrated their reunion with a reception at the law building on Friday, Oct. 27, 2023, followed by a home football game on Saturday.



Class of 1993 Reunion



1. DC Alumni Reception
February 29, 2024
Thompson Coburn LLP



2. Nashville Alumni Reception
March 12, 2024
Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP



3. Louisville Alumni Reception
April 22, 2024
Vinchenzo's

Don't want to miss an alumni event in your area?
Make sure we have your updated contact information.



<https://law.uky.edu/form/stay-connected>

Have a suggestion for a Law Notes magazine feature?
Share your story.



<https://law.uky.edu/form/law-notes-story-idea>



Dawn
and
Robert
Croft

“
Like
Professor
Connelly
used to say,
'Find your
passion and
call it work.'
It has taken
me awhile
to figure it
out, but I've
found the
way I like to
practice law.”
Robert Croft

Corporate Law
Power Couple

Dawn and Robert Croft both came out of the University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law knowing there were several paths they could take. In time, they have found their true passions in corporate law. They have each helped companies through some of the most challenging times in the past two decades, and they've both embraced opportunities to pass their knowledge on to others in their fields. The couple married in 2009.

Dawn graduated from the law school at UK in 2007 and secured a role at Frost Brown Todd. She was introduced to a dizzying range of corporate, franchise, and securities law at a time when bailouts dominated the legal landscape.

When Dawn shifted to corporate law for Yum! Brands, she adapted quickly to cooperative agreements, supply chain issues, public securities, and more. After five years, she went to KFC, where she drilled into marketing law.

"I love working for brands I'd use, and marketing law was a good fit for my personality," she said.

Then, in 2019, two months after the couple bought their Louisville dream house, Dawn was recruited by Amazon to its grocery business practicing product and regulatory law. It was an opportunity the Crofts couldn't pass up, so they moved to Seattle. Seven months later, the pandemic hit. Amazon's online grocery delivery skyrocketed, and Dawn's team maneuvered unforeseen and unprecedented legal issues. She's proud to have had a positive impact on consumers as well as her team's potential.

"My legal team was at the forefront of Covid's legal issues, dealing with the

shutdown and embracing innovation and ambiguity," she said. "We built a roadmap for helping customers, including seniors and other vulnerable populations, get their groceries safely."

The food industry kept calling. Dawn was recruited by DoorDash in 2022, where she is Senior Counsel and Head of Regulated Products.

After college, Robert found himself working as a runner at a law firm and realized he wanted to pursue law.

"I liked helping people and advocating for them," he said, noting that litigation is like "passionate negotiating."

After completing his law degree in 2006, Robert joined Wyatt, Tarrant and Combs as a litigator where he represented retailers, manufacturers, mining companies, and others in the courtroom. After six years, he joined Dinsmore & Shohl. He worked up to partnership. While he was successful, his priorities were evolving, and he received an opportunity he could not pass up, becoming Senior Counsel, Litigation Investigations at Humana.

"Becoming a dad changed my perspective and shifted how I wanted to spend my time," he said.

After a year with Humana and the move to Seattle, Robert briefly joined the Starbucks legal team before returning to Humana as assistant general counsel, leading its defensive litigation team. With this role, he has found his stride.

"Like Professor Connelly used to say, 'Find your passion and call it work.' It has taken me awhile to figure it out, but I've found the way I like to practice law," Robert said.

Dawn and Robert are grateful for the influence and support of their law professors and peers.

"We were the first lawyers in our families, so it was incredibly valuable to connect to others with experience," Dawn said, who now passes her knowledge on to people who are developing their own careers. "I love being able to build a team, drive strategy, and earn trust so people feel like they can take risks and be business enablers."

"I'm proudest of the fact that I've had a positive impact on people who look like me or are diverse in other ways," Robert adds. "Doing right by people is the legacy I want to leave for my daughter."

RUTH PAARMANN

“
We were the first
lawyers in our
families, so it was
incredibly valuable
to connect to others
with experience.”

Dawn Croft

Public Service *Trailblazer*



Throughout her incredibly varied career, Gwendolyn Horton has been a trailblazer. From her time helping implement Kentucky's unified judicial system in 1976 to her 19 years with the Legal Aid Society, she has helped thousands access legal assistance. Having left active practice in 2024, Horton is grateful to have been a voice for people who needed it.

"I'm a defense attorney at heart. Even when prosecuting people, I could see the humanity in them," she said. "Every career I've had—professor, FBI agent, civil rights attorney, public defender, Legal Aid Society—each one was exciting, and I enjoyed them all."

Growing up in Louisville, Horton's parents stressed the importance of education. When her father said his sons would go to college and his daughters would get married, her mother corrected him, saying, "My girls are going to college, too!" All the Horton children received advanced degrees, with Gwendolyn Horton considering med school. Upon completing her psychology and government degrees, she decided on law at the University of Kentucky. She was in one of the college's largest classes of women to date, and yet, she was the one and only Black woman most of the time.

"I was the only Black female in my class in college, law school, and at the FBI Academy. I was also the only Black FBI female agent on the West Coast."

After law school, she worked on the team setting up the new Kentucky court system, then taught criminal law and evidence at Kentucky State University. After hosting a speaker from the FBI, she became interested in working there and started training to get accepted.

"I knew I had to be able to do 35 pushups, but my dad saw me doing 'women's pushups.' At age 27, I had no idea I was doing them wrong. My dad showed me how to do full pushups!"

Gwendolyn Horton ► J.D. 1976



“
I’ve taken time
to help young
women because
for me, it was
sink or swim.”
Gwendolyn Horton

She passed the tests and joined the Financial Crime unit in the Los Angeles field office. While she loved living in California, she realized befriending people undercover, then imprisoning them, didn’t fit her values. She also spent three years in the initial Joint Terrorism Task Force in the New York Manhattan field office.

She returned to Kentucky, and in 1990, secured a role with the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, addressing a broad range of discrimination complaints. In one case, a family from out of state came back to decorate a grave for Memorial Day and found the Black section of the cemetery unkempt. Horton corrected that issue, restoring dignity for them and the other families whose loved ones were interred there.

In 1999, she returned to the court system as Louisville Metro Public Defender and represented indigent juveniles for six years, receiving an award for outstanding legal advocacy. Her final career was with the Legal Aid Society, where she represented approximately 9,000 indigent persons in tenant, expungement, and foreclosure cases.

“It was a wonderful experience to get justice for people along with mercy and compassion,” she said. “Public service law won’t make you rich, but you can have an enriching legal career and be a happy person.”

She encourages attorneys to volunteer their time and talent to the Legal Aid Society because there is not a constitutional right to civil representation.

For her leadership, she received the Louisville Bar Association Justice William E. McNulty, Jr. Trailblazer Award and the Legal Aid Society Marshall P. Eldred Excellence in Advocacy Award. UK Rosenberg Law awarded her the John E. Heyburn Award for Public Service.

Horton continues advocating for others as a volunteer with Jefferson County Legal Help Center and is involved in her neighborhood group. She reads, stays in touch with college and law school friends, and enjoys caring for the rescued pets owned by her nieces Peyton and Paisley. She also mentors Black female law students—something she values deeply.

“I’ve taken time to help young women because for me, it was sink or swim. It is refreshing to see Black females at many levels today!”

RUTH PAARMANN

Seeing the Power of Empathy

David Holton ► J.D. 1988

Even though David Holton has been visually impaired since he was 10, he is not blind to the power of empathy. The 1988 graduate of the University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law believes he was the second blind graduate from the college. The Louisville attorney has been a prosecutor and became Kentucky's first blind judge in 2008. Over the years, he has had a positive effect on youth, veterans, visually impaired children, and his clients.

Holton had the benefit of experiencing sight before a brain tumor was removed, leaving him blind. Following his surgery, his classmates helped him navigate schoolwork and activities. With interests in history and social issues, there was no question of whether he would go to college—it was a just a matter of how it would work.

“My parents were hardworking schoolteachers and instrumental in my success. They never expected less of me without my sight than when I had sight,” he said. “They let me fly.”

Before setting off for college, Holton got a guide dog to accompany him at Morehead State University. With Simon and music on his side, he had no trouble meeting people and being active in student government.

Law school was dramatically different. Studying law isn't easy for anyone, but Holton's law books and assignments were on tape, thanks to Recording for the Blind and other volunteers. His classmate from MSU and UK Rosenberg Law, Scott Coburn, J.D. (1988), helped him study for exams.

“When I graduated, there were not a lot of people looking to hire a 27-year-old blind guy to be a lawyer,” Holton quips, but friends in the Jefferson County Attorney's Office helped him land a position as a prosecutor. He also launched a private practice handling bankruptcy, probate, personal injury, and family law, which he pursued for 19 years. At first, he had to hire his own assistant to read to him before the Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations were instituted.

In 2008, Holton decided to apply for a judicial appointment. In April of that year, Gov. Steve Beshear appointed him to the district court, making him the first blind judge in Kentucky.

“It was a very humbling responsibility. I felt I should do the job right for the public's sake, but also so I'm not the last blind judge.”

He's especially proud of the work he did to help veterans and youth. Integrating behavioral healthcare became hallmarks of his 10 years as a judge. In 2012, he led the creation of Kentucky's first Veterans Treatment Court Program, which has since expanded around the state to help struggling veterans get on track.

“The law looks a lot different from behind the bench than it does when facing the bench. I still have people stop me to say, ‘You saved my life.’”

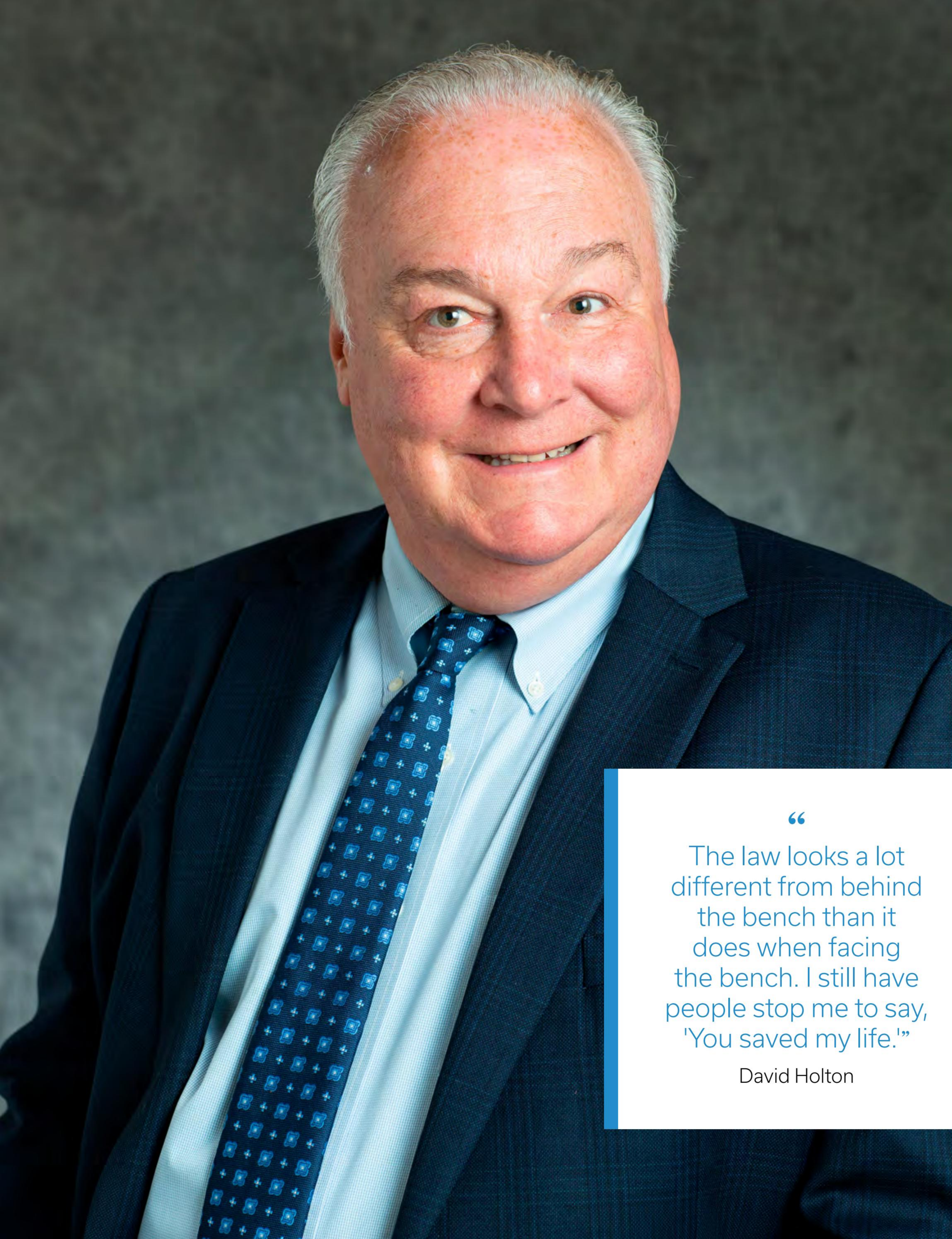
Later, as a juvenile court judge, he was the first to ensure that the accused be unshackled, per a Kentucky Supreme Court order.

“There were a few exceptions, but I thought it would make a difference in how the kids viewed themselves,” he said. “I was still tough on them.”

For his compassion and fairness, the Louisville Bar Association honored Holton with the 2017 Judge of the Year award. Outside the courtroom, Holton has also supported mental health organizations and Visually Impaired Preschool Services, a nonprofit that provides resources to families in Kentucky and Indiana.

Holton currently practices probate, estate, and criminal law in the Louisville area. He and his wife, Andrea—along with his current guide dog, Coach—can be found cheering on the Wildcat football team in the fall.

RUTH PAARMANN



“

The law looks a lot different from behind the bench than it does when facing the bench. I still have people stop me to say, 'You saved my life.'

David Holton



UK Rosenberg Law *Celebrates Trailblazers*

The University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law, in collaboration with the University of Kentucky Alumni Association's Lyman T. Johnson Alumni Constituency Group, hosted a Pioneers for Progress celebration, recognizing African American alumni, on April 11, 2024. This initiative strives to re-engage and celebrate African American, Black, and other graduates of color. Their experiences, sacrifices, and impact continue to pave the way and open doors for current and future generations of UK students.

This year's Pioneers for Progress event included a lunch panel featuring law alumni

who discussed their careers and experiences in law school. The evening activities included a reception and unveiling of a new Pioneers for Progress wall outside of the law school's G. Chad Perry III Grand Courtroom. Following the wall reveal, panelists discussed the impact of Lyman T. Johnson's court case, the significance of his challenge, and what it has meant for the University of Kentucky's past, present, and future.

Danny Murphy, the senior assistant dean of community engagement and operations, moderated the noon panel. He noted that the opportunities afforded to many law students

today exist because of the sacrifices of graduates from the past. "We want you to hear their stories," he said.

All the speakers on the lunch panel were UK Rosenberg College of Law alumni: Debra Merchant (Class of '84), John Merchant (Class of '82), and David Olinger (Class of '76).

John Merchant, a partner with the law firm of Dinsmore and Shohl, described the camaraderie among the small group of Black students in his class. "It was important for us to make sure that we all made it," he said. "There was this sense of community."



Debra Merchant, recently retired Vice President of Student Affairs for the University of Cincinnati, said she found a mentor while in law school who understood her as a woman, even though the mentor didn't look like her. "The biggest change, which has opened so many doors, is that now we have a network in the profession," she said.

David Olinger, retired Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky, recalled students in his class starting the Black Law Students Association student organization at the University of Kentucky. Later, many of the same individuals were involved in starting Lexington's John Rowe Chapter of the National Bar Association. Offering advice to current law students, Olinger emphasized that they shouldn't take shortcuts in their classes and jobs. "Do your work and get it done," he said.

The evening panel discussed the 75th anniversary of Lyman T. Johnson's successful lawsuit against UK, which resulted in him becoming the first African American student at the university.

"This was the month that the court case was won – very significant (time period in our history)," said Judge Brian Edwards, Circuit Court Judge, Jefferson County, and 1996 graduate of the law school, who moderated the panel.

The panelists were Judge Melissa Murphy, District Court Judge, Fayette County, a 2001 graduate of the law school, as well as UK alumnus Dr. Ricky Jones, a University of Louisville professor in the Pan-African Studies Department, and Dr. Derrick White, a UK professor of history and African American and Africana Studies.



The panelists shared experiences that resonated with many graduates in the audience, ranging from the challenges and pain of being Black students on UK's campus to experiences that shaped their lives because of the connections made and education achieved through their time at the university. For many of the panelists, being part of a smaller community within the university led to lifelong friendships and a brotherhood/sisterhood that spans generations and keeps them connected through the university and their careers to this day.

The attendees loudly applauded Emmett "Buzz" Burnam who was in attendance. One common message by the panelists and UK graduates in attendance was the importance of the university having individuals who dedicated their careers to recruiting and supporting African American students to succeed at UK. Although not an

exhaustive list, the names mentioned throughout the evening included Buzz Burnam, Chester Grundy, Frank X Walker, Joyce Beatty, Toni Thomas, and Jerry Stevens.

Prior to the evening panel discussion, the college revealed a new wall outside of the Grand Courtroom that features law school graduates of color. Senior Assistant Dean Murphy said the goal when the renovated law school building opened, with the support of UK Rosenberg Law Dean Mary J. Davis, was to include a place in the building to recognize pioneers of the college.

"This will be a living wall and an evolving wall," Dean Murphy said. "The photos that you see today, we are looking forward to adding more to the wall. We are looking forward to rotating the wall features, and we hope this becomes a piece that people will come to see."





College Celebrates
2024 Hall of Fame Inductees and Alumni Award Recipients

On Wednesday, May 8, University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg alumni, administrators, staff, faculty, students, and friends came together to induct two alumni into the Law Alumni Association Hall of Fame and honor five alumni with achievement awards.

The 2024 Law Alumni Hall of Fame and Alumni Awards were held at The Metropolitan Club in Covington, Kentucky. The UK Rosenberg College of Law Alumni Association selected the venue to coincide with the Kentucky Bar Association Convention held in Covington this year.

The two Hall of Fame inductees were: **J. David Rosenberg** (Class of 1974), a senior partner at Keating, Muething & Klekamp in Cincinnati, Ohio; and the **Hon. Rebecca Westerfield** (Class of 1976), who served as a judge for the Circuit Court of Jefferson County (Kentucky) before moving to San Francisco, California, in 1992, where she became a founding member of JAMS, the largest global private alternative dispute resolution provider.

The Law Alumni Association Hall of Fame acknowledges graduates and former faculty of the college whose extraordinary professional success and contributions, profound positive influence on the college, and high degree of character and integrity are recognized by their peers.

Rosenberg is the naming benefactor of the college. "He's a great lawyer with

a keen intellect and determination to excel," UK Rosenberg Law Dean Mary J. Davis said prior to the end of her tenure as dean. "More importantly, he is a person I have come to know over the last five years who is committed to justice and committed to the legal profession – which he holds in the highest regard – and his community in the broadest sense."

Rosenberg said he would forever cherish being honored by his peers, and he congratulated all the alumni honorees. "At a time when lawyers have become the butt of jokes, you represent the best of our profession, and I am proud to stand with you as a graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Law."

Davis described Westerfield's longtime passion for leadership, justice, and equity. She noted that Westerfield wanted to become a lawyer from a young age.

"Judge Rebecca Westerfield has made change happen throughout her life," Davis said. "This passion for leadership and making the world a more equitable place continued when she arrived on UK's campus."

Each year, the Women's Law Caucus student organization selects one student to receive The Westerfield Award for leadership.

"I would not only credit the college for the lawyer and judge that I became, I would actually say the college shaped me," Westerfield said.



2024 Alumni Awards were also presented during the reception.

Margaret Pisacano (Class of 1989) received the Professional Achievement Award. Pisacano was a medical malpractice trial lawyer for 18 years. In December 2007, she joined the University of Kentucky as director of risk management for UK Healthcare.

Sylvia Lovely (Class of 1979) received the Community Service Award. Lovely retired from her position as CEO of Kentucky League of Cities after serving the organization for three decades.

James "Jim" Landry (Class of 2016) received the Young Professional Award. Landry is a partner with Keuler, Kelly, Hutchins, Blankenship & Sigler, LLP in Paducah, Kentucky.

Hon. Susan Wesley McClure (Class of 1988) received the Distinguished Jurist Award. Before becoming the Hopkins Family Court judge in 2007, McClure served as general jurisdiction circuit judge in 2006, and as an assistant county attorney for Hopkins County from 1990-1998.

Hon. Phillip Patton (Class of 1973) received the Legacy Award. Patton became circuit judge for the 43rd Judicial Circuit of Barren and Metcalfe counties in 2001, and he was reelected three times. Since retirement in 2015, he has been named special judge in about 30 counties and presided over dozens of cases. By assignment of the Kentucky Chief Justice, he has resolved hundreds of felony cases by mediation.

“
I would not only credit the college
for the lawyer and judge that I
became, I would actually say the
college shaped me.”

Hon. Rebecca Westerfield

Visit law.uky.edu/alumni-giving/hall-fame-and-alumni-awards for information about nominating someone for the UK Rosenberg College of Law Hall of Fame or Alumni Awards.

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* Indicates Lafferty Society Member

+ Indicates Visiting Committee Member 2023–2024



FINAL SPOTLIGHTS

01

Law students colored to reduce stress during a **Wellness Retreat** on April 17, which included yoga on the third-floor terrace.

02

On Feb. 7, 2024, UK Rosenberg College of Law hosted a live session of the **Kentucky Court of Appeals** in the G. Chad Perry III Grand Courtroom, where the Hon. Glenn E. Acree, Hon. Pamela R. Goodwine, and Hon. Allison E. Jones heard oral arguments in two cases. All three judges are alumni of the college. After the live session, the judges shared their insights and experiences with law students over lunch.

03

On March 27, 2024, UK Rosenberg College of Law and the Ed Brown Society cohosted “**Galloping Toward Success: Exploring a Legal Career within the Horse Racing Industry**,” which is part of a learning series. Ed Brown Society officers and board members joined law students for a networking reception.

04

Alumna Carolyn Ann Greene (College of Law Class of 1973) receives the **Lyman T. Johnson Torch of Excellence Award** on behalf of the UK J. David Rosenberg College of Law in October 2023. UK’s academic colleges and units select at least one alumnus whose faith, hard work and determination has positively affected the lives of people on the UK campus to receive the award.

05

The **Law Alumni Association** provided box lunches for UK Rosenberg Law graduates taking the July Bar Exam July 30–31 at the Clarion Hotel in Lexington, Kentucky.

01

02





03



04



05



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